

Canadian Tamil Congress
கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவை
Congrès Tamoul Canadien

"The unified voice of Canadian Tamils"

Annual Dinner '10



Canadian Tamil Congress
கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவை
Congrès Tamoul Canadien

"The unified voice of Canadian Tamils"

Head Office:
Toronto
216-31 Progress Ave.
Toronto, ON. M1P 4S6 Canada
Tel: **416 240 0078**
Fax: 416 240 1601

Branch Office:
Montreal
378-6830, Parc Ave.
Montreal, QC. H3N 1W3
Tel: **514 394 7727**
Fax: 514 227 5477

Chapters:
- **Ottawa**
613 789 9371
- **Vancouver**
778 231 0074
- **Edmonton**
780 498 1070
- **Winnipeg**
204 219 2018
- **Halifax**
902 229 5482
- **Waterloo**
519 404 6707

www.canadiantamilcongress.ca
info@canadiantamilcongress.ca

Published By: Canadian Tamil Congress
Layout and Print: Printfast.ca.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Canadian National Anthem

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!

From far and wide, O Canada,
We stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee

தமிழ்த் தாய் வாழ்த்து

வாழ்க நிரந்தரம் வாழ்க தமிழ்மொழி
வாழிய வாழியவே
வான மளந்தனைத்தும் அளந்திடும்
வண் மொழி வாழியவே
ஏழ் கடல் வைப்பினுந் தன் மணம் வீசி
இசை கொண்டு வாழியவே
எங்கள் தமிழ் மொழி எங்கள் தமிழ் மொழி
என்றென்றும் வாழியவே
சூழ்கலி நீங்கத் தமிழ் மொழி ஓங்கத்
துலங்குக வையகமே
தொல்லை வினைதரு தொல்லை யகன்று
சுடர்க தமிழ் நாடே
வாழ்க தமிழ் மொழி வாழ்க தமிழ் மொழி
வாழ்க தமிழ் மொழியே
வானம் அறிந்தனைத்தும் அறிந்து
வளர் மொழி வாழியவே



Canadian Tamil Congress
கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவை
Congrès Tamoul Canadien
"The unified voice of Canadian Tamils"

Mission and Objectives

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) is a non-profit organization which serves as the voice of Tamil Canadians. Headquartered in Toronto, the CTC has 11 chapters across the country and an elected board of directors. The non-partisan organization works as the community's spokesperson on the municipal, provincial, federal and international levels. Its chapters can be found in Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax, London, Edmonton, Vancouver, Waterloo, Winnipeg, Windsor and Regina.

- Uphold Canadian values of human rights, multiculturalism, religious and cultural diversity, gender equality, pluralism and volunteerism
- Promote the participation of Tamil Canadians in activities of local, regional, provincial and national importance
- Work with various levels of governments in Canada to highlight and resolve issues impacting Tamil Canadians
- Cooperate with Canadian and international organizations in alleviating the suffering of Tamils and provide humanitarian assistance to Tamils worldwide
- Champion for equality, equality rights and equal opportunity for all diverse groups, in particular gender equality, by working towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination and intolerance
- Recognize and support the social, cultural and political aspirations of the Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka and worldwide. Advance the research, study and usage of the Tamil language and culture
- Develop and enhance working relationships with other cultural groups in Canada

Mission et Objectifs

Le congrès Tamoul canadien (CTC), est un organisme à but non lucratif qui représente la voix des Tamouls canadiens. Le siège social étant à Toronto, le CTC possède 11 chapitres dans l'ensemble du pays ainsi qu'un conseil administratif élu. L'organisme agit comme un porte- parole non-partisan de la communauté au niveau municipal, provincial, fédéral et international. Ces chapitres sont situés à Ottawa, Montréal, Halifax, Londres, Edmonton, Vancouver, Waterloo, Winnipeg, Guelph et Régina.

- Confirmez les valeurs canadiennes des droits de l'homme, multiculturalisme, diversité religieuse et culturelle, égalité entre les sexes, pluralisme et volontarisme
- Favorisez la participation des canadiens tamoul dans les activités d'importance locale, régionale, provinciale et nationale. Travaillez avec de divers niveaux des gouvernements au Canada pour accentuer et résoudre des problèmes effectuant les canadiens tamoul
- Coopérez avec des organismes canadiens et internationaux à alléger la douleur et fournissez l'assistance humanitaire aux tamoul dans le monde entier
- Champion pour l'égalité, les droits d'égalité et l'égalité des chances pour tous les groupes divers, en particulier égalité entre les sexes, en travaillant vers l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination et d'intolérance
- Identifiez et soutenez les aspirations sociales, culturelles et politiques des Tamoul sur île du Sri Lanka et dans le monde entier
- Avancez la recherche, l'étude et l'utilisation de la langue et de la culture tamoul
- Développez et augmentez les relations de travail avec d'autres groupes ethnoculturels au Canada



Canadian Tamil Congress
கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவை
Congrès Tamoul Canadien
"The unified voice of Canadian Tamils"

நோக்கம் மற்றும் குறிக்கோள்கள்

கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவை ஒரு இலாப நோக்கமற்ற, கனடியத் தமிழரின் குரலாய் விளங்கும் அமைப்பாகும். ரொறன்ரோவிலே தலைமைப் பணிமனையைக் கொண்ட பேரவை நாடு முழுவதும் 11 கிளைகளோடு ஒரு தேசிய அமைப்பாக விளங்குவதோடு உறுப்பினரால் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்ட இயக்குனர் சபையையும் கொண்டதாகும்.

பக்கசார்பற்றுச் செயற்படும் கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவை கனடியக் குமுகச் செயற்பாடுகளில் தமிழர்களின் பங்கேற்றலை ஊக்குவித்தல், தமிழரின் முக்கிய பிரச்சினைகளை முதன்மைப்படுத்துதல் மற்றும் கனடிய விழுமியங்களைப் பேணுவதுடன் வேற்றின குமுகங்களும் அரசாங்கங்களும் ஏனைய அமைப்புக்களும் தமிழரின் குமுக, கலாச்சார மற்றும் அரசியல் பிரச்சினைகளைப் பேசச்செய்தல் போன்றவற்றை முக்கிய நோக்கமாகக் கொண்டதாகும். பேரவையின் குறிக்கோள்கள் சில கீழ்வருமாறு:

- உள்ளூர், கோட்டம், மாநிலம் மற்றும் நாட்டின் முதன்மை வாய்ந்த செயற்பாடுகளில் கனடாத் தமிழரது பங்கேற்றலை ஊக்குவித்தல்

- கனடாத் தமிழர் தொடர்பான சிக்கல்களை முன்னிலைப்படுத்தித் தீர்வு காண்பதற்குப் பல்வேறு மட்டக் கனடா அரசுகளோடு இணைந்து செயற்படல்

- தாயகத்திலும், உலகெங்கும் வாழும் தமிழரது குமுக, பண்பாட்டு, அரசியல் வேட்கைகளை ஏற்றுப் போற்றுதல்

- மனித உரிமை, பல்பண்பாடு, சமய-பண்பாட்டுப் பல்வண்மை, பால் ஒப்புமை, பன்மைநெறி, தொண்டுநெறி ஆகிய கனடாவின் விழுமியங்களை மேம்படுத்தல்

- தமிழ் மொழி மற்றும் பண்பாடு பற்றிய ஆய்வு, கல்வி, பயன்பாடு என்பவற்றை மேம்படுத்தல்

- கனடாவின் பிற இனப்பண்பாட்டுக் குழுமங்களோடு உறவு பூணுதலும் வளர்த்தலும்

- கனடா மற்றும் பன்னாட்டு அமைப்புகளோடு இணைந்து, உலகளாவிய தமிழ் மக்களின் இன்னல் போக்கலும் மாந்த நேய உதவி வழங்கலும்

- அனைத்து வேறுபாடுகளையும், பொறுதியின்மையையும் ஒழிப்பதற்குப் பணியாற்றல் மற்றும் அனைத்துக் குழுமங்களுக்கும் ஒப்பான உரிமை மற்றும் வாய்ப்பு நாடிப் பாடுபடல். குறிப்பாக பால் ஒப்புமை நாடிப் போராடல்.



Canadian Tamil Congress
கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவை
Congrès Tamoul Canadien
"The unified voice of Canadian Tamils"



On behalf of the Canadian Tamil Congress, I am pleased to wish you all a Happy Thai Pongal and welcome you to our Annual Dinner. Celebrated by 80 million Tamils all over the world, Thai Pongal is an ancient harvest festival which signifies a new beginning and a new year. The festival originated in South Asia and is celebrated by all Tamil Canadian families, regardless of their faith, from coast to coast. Tamil Canadians believe "the birth of the month of Thai (January) brings new beginnings and new ways to achieve one's goal." It is this hope and optimism which is the cause for celebrations in many Tamil Canadian households.

Our optimism is needed today, more than ever, as we work to strengthen the Tamil Canadian community and forge new ways to meet the challenges created by a dark and painful 2009. A large part of the year was defined by the struggles faced by our relatives and friends on the island of Sri Lanka as an authoritarian leadership committed crimes against humanity, large-scale massacres and incarcerated over 300,000 civilians, including 50,000 children, in barbed-wire camps.

While many Tamil Canadians were worried about what was going on in Sri Lanka, they also spent hours with campaigns to help the greater Canadian public from spearheading blood donation drives to raising money for the SickKids Foundation. Thanks to the dedication of our community members and volunteers, CTC rallied the community to donate 500 units of blood this year, helping save 1,500 lives across Canada. Additionally, CTC mobilized the community for the Heart and Stroke Foundation as well as help raise more than $40,000 for the SickKids, which treats 100,000 children every year.

At CTC, we will continue to be a voice for the voiceless and work towards building a vibrant, diverse, and compassionate Tamil Canadian society within the Canadian mosaic. As CTC completes its tenth year, we have been able to increase interest in our activities. It is a testament to the work carried out by CTC that we were able to grow from five to 11 chapters in 2009 to represent Tamil Canadians coast to coast.

In all of our struggles, one thing remains clear, our cause for equality, justice, fairness and the upholding of human rights for all is a just one. As Martin Luther King said, there is something in the universe that unfolds for justice, and we firmly believe, we must work collectively to create that better future unfold for all.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Thai Pongal.
உங்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் இனிய தைப்பொங்கல் வாழ்த்துக்கள்.

Professor (Ranjan) R. Sri Ranjan, Ph.D., P.Eng.
President, Canadian Tamil Congress

Thai Pongal
The Thanksgiving Festival of Tamils



Thai Pongal is a harvest festival equivalent to the Thanksgiving Day and it is celebrated by Tamils across the world. Considered to be one of the oldest harvest festivals, Pongal is said to have originated in the pre-Christian era in Tamil Nadu. In the Tamil language Pongal literally means "boiling over or spill over." The boiling of milk in a clay pot until it spills over is symbolic of the heart's desire for abundance and prosperity.

The Pongal festival falls on the first day of the month of *Thai* of the Tamil calendar (i.e. 14th of January according to the Gregorian calendar) and is enveloped by a sense of newness. Celebrated traditionally at harvest time, it is a festival signifying the wealth of food and prosperity associated with the wish for a bountiful harvest. By thanking the rain, sun and the farm animals that contribute to the production of rice, the most staple food of the Tamils this festival expresses the harmony and inter-dependence between all created realities that make this planet a great place to live and grow.

Pongal is celebrated by the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as well as Tamils worldwide, including those in Sri Lanka, Tamil Eelam, , Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa, USA, Canada and Singapore. Transcending religious differences Pongal is celebrated by Tamils of all religious persuasions.

A flat square pitch is made and decorated with *kolam* drawings, and it is exposed to the direct sun light. A hearth made of natural fire wood is set up using three bricks. The cooking begins by placing a clay pot with water on the hearth. A senior member of the family will begin the cooking and the rest of the family dutifully assists him or her. The moment of climax is the spill over of the Pongal during cooking. The spillover of milk is a propitious symbol of abundance and good omen and shouts of " Pongalo Pongal" will accompany. Thereafter, a member of the family ceremoniously puts three handful of new rice inside the boiling pot.

The other ingredients of this special dish are chakkarai (brown cane sugar) or katkandu (sugar candy), milk (cow's milk or coconut milk), roasted green gram (payaru), raisins, and cashew nuts. When the meal is ready it is first served on a banana leaf and the family prays for a few minutes to thank nature, sun and farmers. Then the meal (Pongal) is served with fruits (banana and mango) among the family. Later it will be shared with neighbours, friends and relatives.

The richness of Thamil culture and historical traditions is symbolized in the Thamil New Year and Thai Pongal festival. By celebrating this festival the Thamils in Diaspora help to perpetuate our rich culture, traditions, literary opulence, sublime philosophy and socio-economic aspirations. It also gives an emotional link to our kith and kin at home or scattered across the globe.

RIDEAU HALL
OTTAWA



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE



Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.,
Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada

Son Excellence la très honorable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.,
gouverneure générale et commandante en chef du Canada

I am pleased to send my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating at this Thai Pongal gala festival, hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress.

As Canadians, we take great pride in preserving the heritage of our ancestors, ensuring that succeeding generations will understand and appreciate their history. Whether Canadian by birth or by adoption, whether our roots extend beyond these borders or are just breaking ground, we gain invaluable knowledge about each other and ourselves by sharing our traditions, customs and beliefs.

This gala event, like many others being held in communities across Canada, reflects the beauty of our nation's rich cultural tapestry. I wish all of you continued prosperity and happiness during Thai Pongal and throughout the year.

Michaëlle Jean

October 2009

Thai Pongal in Canada and Around the World

Newcomers often bring many traditions as they immigrate to new lands. For the Tamil Canadian community, Thai Pongal is one such tradition. Falling on January 14, Thai Pongal is typically marked in Tamil Canadian households across Canada. Equivalent to Thanksgiving, Thai Pongal is also celebrated across generations, from Tamils who immigrated to their children and grandchildren born in Canada.



Basics of Thai Pongal

Q. Where is Thai Pongal celebrated?

A. Thai Pongal is celebrated worldwide by Tamils, including those in Tamil Nadu, Malaysia, Mauritius, Tamil Eelam, South Africa, USA, Canada, Sri Lanka and Singapore.

Q. When is Thai Pongal observed?

A. In the Tamil calendar, the year's first day falls on January 14 and that is when the Thai Pongal is typically celebrated. The timing also coincides with harvest season in South Asia.

Q. Why do Tamils mark Thai Pongal?

A. The carrying on of tradition and custom are part of the reasons that Thai Pongal is celebrated in Canada. By thanking nature (the sun, rain, etc), this ancient festival expresses the harmony and inter-dependence between the environment and humans. As it falls at the start of the Tamil calendar year, a spirit of newness, hope and optimism infuses the celebrations. It is a time for renewal and new beginnings.

Q. What are the main rituals associated with Thai Pongal?

A. The boiling of milk in a pot is a common ritual associated with Thai Pongal. Actually, pongal literally means "boiling over or spill over." The boiling over of milk in a pot is seen as a good omen and a favorable symbol bringing abundance. After the milk boils over, people say "Pongalo Pongal" to bring good fortune and three handfuls of rice are then placed in the boiling pot. Some families in Canada also decorate the entrances to their homes with "Kolams".

Q. What ingredients mainly go into pongal?

A. Pongal is also a dish made on special occasions, such as Thai Pongal. Pongal is made from rice, brown cane sugar, sugar candy, milk, green gram, raisins and cashew nuts.



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

January 16, 2010



A Personal Message from the Premier

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the Annual Gala Dinner and Tamil Harvest Festival, hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC).

We are fortunate to live in a province enriched by cultural diversity — a diversity that gives Ontario both strength and vitality. I would like to commend the Tamil Canadian community for its role in enhancing that diversity — and for its many invaluable contributions to the social, cultural and economic life of our great province.

Thai Pongal — one of the most important dates on the Tamil calendar — not only celebrates a bountiful harvest, but it also marks a time of renewal and fresh beginnings. It is also a fitting occasion to join family and friends in recognition of the many joys that a strong and caring community brings to its members.

On this festive occasion, please accept my best wishes.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier



Mayor
DAVID MILLER

A Message from the Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the Thai Pongal Festival and annual gala dinner, hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress.

The Tamil festival of Thai Pongal is a thanksgiving celebration of the prosperity associated with a bountiful harvest. It is a wonderful opportunity for family, friends and devotees to come together in a spirit of togetherness and celebrate this significant occasion.

The freedom to observe one's customs and practices is a valued right of every individual and the Tamil community is deeply committed to preserving their rich heritage and traditions.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable festival.

Yours truly,

David Miller

Mayor David Miller

TORONTO

TORONTO 175 1834 2009 YEARS

City Hall • 100 Queen Street West • 2nd Floor • Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2
Telephone: 416-397-CITY • Fax: 416-696-3687 • E-mail: mayor_miller@toronto.ca

MARKHAM

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor



January 16, 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of Members of Council and the Town of Markham, I am pleased to extend a warm and sincere welcome to all those attending the ***"Thai Pongal" Festival and Annual Gala Dinner*** hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress.

Our community is immeasurably enriched by the diversity of its people and by the special gifts of heritage and culture we each carry within. Thai Pongal, or Harvest Festival is recognized as the most important of the Tamil calendar year and is celebrated around the world. This special celebration is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the contributions, achievements and artistic talents of the Tamil Canadian community.

Cultural diversity is one of our community's greatest assets and I commend the Canadian Tamil Congress for the significant role they play in helping make our community a welcoming and positive experience for all our Tamil residents.

As Mayor, I am proud of your efforts and I am delighted to extend my best wishes for a most successful and enjoyable Gala.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Scarpitti

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor



Town of Markham, Anthony Roman Centre, 101 Town Centre Boulevard, Markham, Ontario L3R 9W3
Tel (905) 475-4872 • Fax (905) 479-7775 • e-mail: fscarpitti@markham.ca • Web site: www.markham.ca

Menu

Starter

Vegetarian Hot and Sour Soup

Assorted Rolls and Butter

Entree

Roasted Chicken Supreme with Thai Coconut Red Curry Sauce

Or

Garam Masala Marinated Salmon with Spicy Pineapple Chutney,
Coconut Curry Sauce

Or

Grilled Vegetable Tower with Spicy Tomato Sauce and Basmati
Coriander Rice

Accompanied By
Yukon Potato Mash, Market Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Coconut Mousse, Mango Coulis, Seasonal Berries,
Sprinkle with Dry Coconut

Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee
&
Selection of Teas

Programme

01 **O' Canada**
Ms. Elizabeth Malini Luckumananathan

02 **Thamil Thai Vazhthu**
Ms. Nala Balarajan

03 **Silent Tribute**

04 **Lamp Lighting Ceremony**

05 **Welcome Dance**
Students of Guru Nirothini Pararajasingam

06 **Canadian Tamil Congress Presentation**
Mr. Kubes Nava

07 **President's Address**
Professor R. Sri Ranjan

08 **Greetings**

Mr. James Goheen
Donor Services - Regional Manager Canadian Blood Services

Mayor David Ryan
City of Pickering

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Town of Markham

Councillor Shelley Carroll
City of Toronto

Hon. Michael Chan
Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration & Member of Provincial Parliament for Markham-Unionville

Mr. Paul Calandra
Member of Parliament for Oak Ridges-Markham

09 **Dance**
CTC Performing Arts Team

10 **Greetings**

Hon. Jack Layton
Leader of New Democratic Party & Member of Parliament for Toronto-Danforth

11 **DINNER**

12 **Dance**
Students of Guru Nirothini Pararajasingam

13 **Presentation of Award**
to Mr. Lenin M. Sivam, Director of "1999" film

14 **Presentation of Cheque**
to SickKids Foundation

15 **Acceptance Speech**
Ms. Heather Broll, Vice-President of Community Involvement, SickKids Foundation

16 **Presentation of Cheque**
to Annual Tamil Studies Conference

17 **Acceptance Speech**
Professor Chelva Kanaganayagam, Department of English, University of Toronto

18 **Presentation of Cheque**
to Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre

19 **Acceptance Speech**
Ms. Maria Bernard, Program Coordinator, Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre

20 **Vote of Thanks**
Dr. Meera Selvakone, CTC Board of Directors



Master of Ceremony:
Ms. Thurka Gunaratnam

CTC: 2009 in Rewind

Here are a few of the many activities that we supported or organized during 2009:

December 22 & 26, 2009 – CTC Marks Fifth Anniversary of the Tsunami

CTC hosted two separate events in Montreal and Ottawa to mark the fifth anniversary of the devastating tsunami that struck Asia in 2004 and claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. The natural disaster affected several South Asian countries including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand, the Maldives and India and left millions displaced. Although the epicenter of this unprecedented natural disaster was thousands of miles away, the impact was deeply felt here in Canada as many Tamil Canadians lost relatives and friends in the tragedy. Each December, Tamil Canadians take time to remember all of those who perished or lost their lives because of the tsunami.



In Montreal, Tamil Canadians hosted a special candle light vigil on December 26.



The ceremony was held in collaboration with all affected communities and was attended by representatives from other communities, local media and members of the Tamil Canadian community. In Ottawa, Tamil Canadians organized a remembrance event at Ben Franklin Place. The program included prayers, testimonials from eyewitnesses and short speeches by guest speakers. The event also featured the release of the book, Wilting Laughter: Three Tamil Poets, a collection of poems R. Cheran, V.I.S. Jeyabalan and P. Rathnathurai. It was translated by Chelva Kanaganayakam, an English professor at the University of Toronto. A theatrical performance, Not by Our Tears, followed the book release.



December 20, 2009 – CTC-Edmonton Helps Launch Movie, 1999

CTC-Edmonton helped with the official launch of the movie, 1999, in Edmonton, Alberta. The movie premiered at Cineplex Odeon South Common. Directed by Lenin M. Sivam, 1999 is the first movie by a filmmaker from a Tamil Canadian background to break through at an international level with its debut at the Vancouver International Film Festival.

1999 is a well-researched, realistic portrayal of the struggles the first generation Tamil immigrants, in particular the youth, faced in Canada as they tried adjusting to the new life in the adopted land while trying to put the scars of the war behind them. It peers into the core challenges that were faced by the youth who were torn between two different cultures. Some of them did not have their parents and often lived with their relatives or friends. They lacked good role models and proper guidance, often having to balance school and work.

November 21, 2009 –Circle Of Hope Event Draws Hundreds



Canadians Concerned About Sri Lanka, a coalition, organized the Circle of Hope event at the Sri Lankan consulate in downtown Toronto. More than 800 protestors gathered to urge the Sri Lankan government to live up to its promise to release the nearly 200,000 civilians detained in Sri Lankan's barbed-wire camps. CTC is a founding member of the CCSL coalition.



November 16, 2009 –Packed House Gathers For Panel Discussion



CTC supported and endorsed the panel discussion on Illusionary Justice: Threats to the Rule of Law and Human Rights in Sri Lanka. The event took place at the Law Society of Upper Canada and drew more than 150 people. Speakers included: Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Executive Director for the Centre for Policy Alternatives in Sri Lanka,



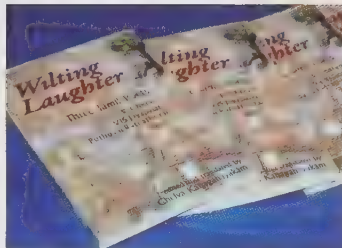
Yolanda Foster, South Asia Researcher for Amnesty International, and Sharry Aiken, Law Professor at Queen's University and Mr. Lorrie Goldstein, Senior Associate Editor of the Toronto Sun.

November 14, 2009 –CTC Organizes Release of New Book and Play

The Robert Gill Theatre at the University of Toronto was packed as audiences gathered en



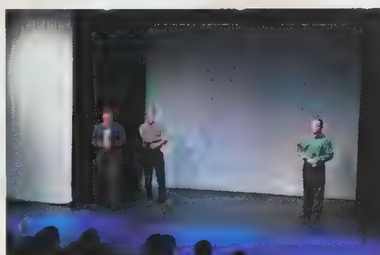
masse for the opening of the new play, Not By Our Tears. The performance on November 14 was a poignant thought-provoking testimony to the trauma and loss of civil war. The audience gave a standing ovation to performers, including play director Dushy Gnanapragasam.





Not by Our Tears belongs to a special genre in the tradition of Tamil drama, known as "play in poetry." The objective of such performances is to offer a visual and oral representation of poetry.

The poetry collection, Wilting Laughter: Three Tamil Poets, also officially launched at the same theatre. The play was based on the book, which was written by R. Cheran, V.I.S. Jayapalan, and P. Rathnathurai. The collection was translated by Chelva Kanaganaya - kam. CTC board member Dr. Meera Selvakone,



Columbia professor Valentine Daniel, and Kanaganayakam were among the speakers who launched the night's program. The event was co-sponsored by the Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Toronto and the Canadian Tamil Congress.

November 2, 2009—CTC Endorses Save the Doctors Campaign

Amnesty International Canada & the Save the Doctors Campaign presented Human Rights, Politics and the Hippocratic Oath: Exploring Physicians' Roles in Conflict Situations at the Munk Centre at the University of Toronto. This event was attended by nearly 130 academics and professionals from all ethnic groups and raised awareness about three doctors, who saved tens of thousands of lives and who are facing persecution from the Sri Lankan government. Speakers included John Argue from Amnesty International, Dr. James Orbinski, past president of Medecins Sans Frontieres, and Craig Scott, a professor from Osgoode Hall Law School. Dr. Meera Selvakone, who sits on the CTC board of directors, was the chair of the Save the Doctors Campaign. CTC supported the





campaign and helped at the event.

October 6 to 27, 2009 – CTC Launches Wellness Month For Tamil Canadian Community

CTC held a wellness month, filled with presentations from Yoga, lifestyle, and health experts to help the community rejuvenate after a difficult year.

September 20, 2009 –Tamil Canadians Raise More than $40,000 for SickKids



More than 1,000 walkers and participants gathered at Thomson Memorial Park for the first Tamil Canadian Walk. The Canadian Tamil Congress organized this year's event to raise money for the SickKids Foundation. About $40,000 was raised with the help of the Tamil Canadian community organizations, members and the greater Canadian public. SickKids is renowned for helping nearly 100,000 patients every year and its pioneering research. Participants walked from Thomson Memorial Park to Albert Campbell Square.





Rob Oliphant, MP for Don Valley West, Brad Duguid, MPP and Ontario Provincial Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Renrick Ashby, Councillor for Ajax, spoke at the Walk-A-Thon.

September 17, 2009 – CTC Helps Educate Service Providers on Tamil Canadian Community

CTC collaborated with Frontline Partners with Youth Network and provided a workshop for the GTA non-Tamil service providers to educate them on better ways of working with the Tamil Canadian population. The workshop gave cultural, historical and social context to the struggles faced by Tamil Canadians. More than 30 non-Tamil social workers attended the workshop. The workshop, titled "An Insider's Look at the Canadian Tamil Community," was facilitated by Canadian Tamil Congress, St. Joseph's Women's Health Centre, CanTYD and YOUTHLINK.



August 26, 2009 - Tamil Canadians Demonstrate against China's Support to Sri Lanka

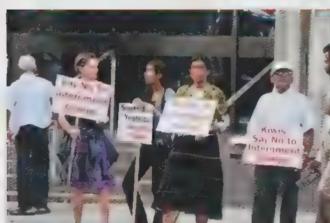
Hundreds of Tamil Canadians gathered outside the Chinese Consulate to protest against China's financial, economic, and diplomatic support of the Sri Lankan government. Many



Tamils have relatives and friends in these camps. Many chanted and waved placards, calling for China to stop its aid to Sri Lanka. Demonstrators also passed out pamphlets to inform the public about the humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka. China is the largest supplier of arms to the Sri Lankan military and increased its help when other countries refused to sell military supplies for use in the civil war. Last year, China was also Sri Lanka's largest foreign donor, pumping $1-billion into the country's coffers. Due to China's diplomatic support in the international arena, Sri Lanka was also able to disregard western nations' calls to adhere to human rights norm.



August 5, 2009 – Tamil Canadians Hold Cross-Canada Protests Urging Worldwide Cricket Boycott of Sri Lanka



Hundreds of Tamil Canadians gathered in multiple cities across Canada to urge a worldwide cricket boycott of Sri Lanka. Demonstrators stood outside the New Zealand High Commission and Consulates in Vancouver, Ottawa and Toronto to voice against the New Zealand Black Caps' ongoing tour of Sri Lanka. Due to Sri Lanka's disregard of all external diplomatic pressure, Tamil Canadians believe a cricket boycott will firmly make the case that it is not right to illegally intern 280,000 civilians against their will in barbed-wire camps.



July 25, 2009— Thousands of Tamil Canadians Remember Black July



Thousands of Tamil Canadians gathered at Queen's Park to remember Black July and to thank Canada for saving thousands fleeing persecution. The CTC-organized event featured many speakers, including Ontario Deputy Premier and Toronto Centre MPP George Smitherman and Trinity-Spadina Member of Parliament Olivia Chow.

Representatives from a variety of organizations attended, from Amnesty



International to the Urban Alliance on Race Relations to the United Church of Canada. Many speakers touched on the current humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka and the internment of nearly 300,000 civilians in camps. Sri Lanka's suppression of the free media and aid organizations were also discussed. To make the case to Sri Lanka that it is not good business to illegally intern 300,000 civilians against their will, the speakers emphasized the importance of boycotting Sri Lanka products.

Black July marks one of the darkest periods in Tamil history. Armed with knives, machetes,



bats and voting lists, mobs searched, attacked and killed Tamils. Thousands of homes and businesses were looted and burned. For many of the attendees, the events of that day are seared in their minds as is the love for Canada for saving their lives.

July 11— CTC Launches Second Annual Canadian Blood Services Campaign

CTC, in partnership with the Canadian Blood Services (CBS), launched its campaign to encourage community members to donate blood and provide stem cell swabs. This was the first year stem cell samples were collected from the community, and was intended to address a shortage of South Asian donors. Margarett Best, Ontario Minister of Health Promotion and MPP for Scarborough-Guildwood, kicked off this year's event at the CBS Head Office in Toronto.





July 1, 2009- Canadian Tamil Congress joins Amnesty International's Global Refugee Village on Canada Day



The Canadian Tamil Congress celebrated Canada's multiculturalism at Amnesty International's



Global Refugee Village. Volunteers showed the cultural and linguistic diversity they bring to the Canadian mosaic with Tamilville, a colourful marketplace intended to teach visitors about Tamil literature, fashions, food and history. Tamilville also featured several billboards depicting the history of the conflict and the current humanitarian crisis. In addition, Amnesty International collected handprints from visitors to send to Sri Lanka with an action alert urging the government to allow freedom of movement for IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) and unfettered access for aid and media organizations.



July 1, 2009 -CTC Marches in Canada Day Parade

Canadian Tamil Congress celebrated Canada Day in Markham by marching in a parade from Markville Mall to Milne Park. Tamil Canadians, from toddlers to grandparents, took part in the celebrations to say thank you to the country that has given them so much. Many waved flags as they marched down the streets. Hundreds of spectators turned out for the parade, which also drew many community groups. At Milne Park, CTC volunteers were busy helping hundreds of visitors with face painting and temporary maple leaf tattoos.





June 28, 2009 –CTC Shows Its Pride

CTC volunteers at Pride Week to show its support for Toronto's diverse communities.

June 25, 2009— CTC participates in Canada's First Internally Displaced Persons Awareness Day

Volunteers from the Canadian Tamil Congress braved heavy rain for Canada's First Internally Displaced Persons Awareness Day at Dundas Square. They joined several other organizations, including War Child Canada, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre to raise awareness about the plight of IDPs. Volunteers were at Dundas Square on June 25 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. They also set up several displays depicting the humanitarian crisis that has left nearly 300,000 Tamils confined in camps in Sri Lanka





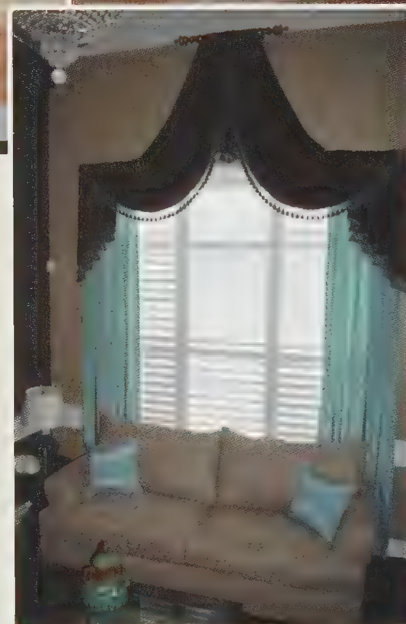


www.alankardecor.com

Alankar Decor

Elegant interior decorators

SMART - AFFORDABLE - SIMPLE



SERVICES....

- ☑ Custom made Drapery & Blinds
- ☑ Home Staging
- ☑ Space Planning
- ☑ Colour selection & coordination
- ☑ Accessories & Furniture selection

அலங்கார் டெக்கோர்

மகிழ்வுதரும் மனையலங்காரம்

TEL: 416-284-7464 / 416 910 7465

1 888 YOU DECOR (968 3326)

WWW.ALANKARDECOR.COM



without complete access to aid and media organizations.

June 1, 2009— Prominent Human Rights Activist Visits CTC

The Canadian Tamil Congress hosted Sunila Abeysekara on June 1, 2009 for a forum about human rights and the United Nations. Ms. Abseysekara, a past winner of the UN award for Human Rights and a prominent activist worldwide, drew a packed crowd. Ms. Abeysekara spoke about a variety of topics including Sri Lanka's crackdown on dissent and criticism. She also spoke about frequent abductions of young boys in Sri Lanka's IDP camps.

April 1, 2009 – CTC Hosts "Understanding Sri Lanka's War" Exhibit On Parliament Hill

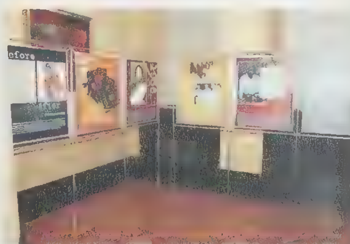


CTC hosted a timely exhibit, "Understanding Sri Lanka's War," in Canada's Parliament building. Nearly a hundred guests, including Members of Parliament, Senators, and staff from all political parties were in attendance to gain a greater understanding of Sri Lanka's history and the current humanitarian crisis. The exhibit chronicled the turbulent history of the island from the political scene during British colonization through to the recurring



episodes of discrimination. The collection incorporated the work of local artists, haunting survivor stories and inspirational testimonials on the Canadian immigrant experience. It also featured a video collage of international footage illustrating Sri Lanka's history. In addition, CTC volunteers were able to engage the guests through a guided tour of the exhibit in English and French.

Exhibit guests left with a fresh perspective on Sri Lanka's narrative, the tragic circumstances that led Tamil Canadians to uproot their families from their homeland.



March 25, 2009 – CTC Hosts Speaker on Current Conflict

Brian Senewiratne gave a presentation on the development of the ethnic conflict that has resulted in the violation of human rights of both the Tamils and the Sinhalese. The event was presented by Canadians for Genocide Education and was held in the Health Sciences Building, University of Toronto.

March 20, 2009—CTC Co-Hosts Public Forum on Racism and Hate Crimes

Canadian Tamil Congress welcomed more than 100 attendees to a public forum on "Challenges Faced in the 21st Century on Racism and Hate Crimes." The forum was



organized by CTC in conjunction with the Tamil Anti-Racism Committee (TARC). It was held at the Markham City Centre. The forum was held in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which falls on March21. The guest speakers included: Pam Frache, Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Labour, Harini Sivalingam, Human Rights Lawyer, Ricky Veerappan, Staff Sergeant with York Regional Police and Ann Phillips, PhD.



March 8, 2009 – CTC Hosts First Tamil Women's Conference on International Women's Day

The first Tamil women's conference is held in B.C. in honour of International Women's Day and in Toronto, social workers were on hand to help families talk about the effects and emotions associated with the escalation of the conflict in Sri Lanka. The event was hosted by Canadian Tamil Congress.

February 4, 2009— CTC Holds Canada-Wide Day of Mourning for Tamils in Sri Lanka



As Sri Lanka celebrated its Independence Day on February 4, Tamil Canadians were mourning the loss of innocent civilians killed. The Canadian Tamil Congress called for a Canada-wide day of mourning on February 3, 2009 following several weeks in which the Government of Sri Lanka continued its violations of the Geneva Convention by deliberately targeting Tamil civilians in the North and East. A vigil was organized as over a quarter of a million Tamil civilians continued to be trapped within a 300 square kilometer conflict area and denied access to urgent medical care and humanitarian aid. Media access at this crucial







this crucial juncture was denied, creating a war without witnesses. In a statement to the Government of Canada, David Poopalapillai, National Spokesperson for the CTC wrote, "We beseech the Canadian government to intervene by urging the Sri Lankan government to immediately cease hostilities against the Tamil people and allow international aid to reach civilians."



January 17, 2009- CTC Hosts Second Annual Thai Pongal Dinner



Despite a heavy snowstorm, CTC celebrated its second Annual Thai Pongal Dinner at the Hilton Suites in Markham, Ontario. The event brought together more than 1,000 community members and political leaders to celebrate Tamil Canadian culture and





achievements within the Canadian mosaic. Speakers included Toronto Councillor Mike Del Grande, Pickering Mayor David Ryan, Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, and former Ontario Deputy Premier George Smitherman. Dances were performed by students of Gurur Vasu Sinnarasa. CTC also presented cheques to support CAMH (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) and the Annual Tamil Studies Conference.






J&J Swagat
Convention Center



ஊரோடு உறவாடும் உங்கள் நண்பன்



Jay Nadarajah
Insurance Advisor
Direct: 416 558 2551
Email: nadarajahj@gmail.com

- Critical Illness Insurance
- Disability Insurance
- Dental & Drugs Insurance
- Travel Insurance
- Non-Medical Insurance
- Mortgage Insurance
- Life Insurance Products
- RRSP'S & Investments
- RESP - Education Saving Plan
- Final Expense Products

RESP

- IF YOU WANT TO BENIFIT FROM THIS YEAR'S GOVERNMENT GRANTS ENROLL YOUR CHILDREN BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.
- THE CET GROUP PLAN HAS PAID OUT THE HIGHEST SCHOLARSHIPS 11 YEARS IN A ROW



MEGA
Financial Group
PH 28 - 4168 Finch Ave. E.
Scarborough ON. M1S 5H6
www.megafinancial.ca



CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUNDS INC
A VERY DIFFERENT GROUP OF RESPs

INDUSTRIELLE ALLIANCE
Canada Life
Transamerica
Manulife Financial
RBC Insurance
UL Mutual

Media Under Attack: Spotlight on Sri Lanka

By Mario Pushparatnam

"For him no matter what the circumstances are; there is no excuse for unkindness. No matter what circumstance fellow human beings must be treated with dignity," said Ronnate Tissainayagam, wife of journalist J.S. Tissainayagam

The case of J.S. Tissainayagam is a premier example of the dire state that journalists in Sri Lanka find themselves. For the mere 'sin' of writing two critical articles about the ruling government, the veteran journalist was sentenced to 20 years of hard labor. For a country to have a true functioning democracy, a healthy, independent and critical press is needed. Unfortunately, Sri Lanka is anything but a true democracy leaving those who dare to go beyond state-sanctioned reports at risk of threats, jail, beatings and death. As the now deceased Sunday Leader editor Lasantha Wickrematunge once noted: "No other profession calls on its practitioners to lay down their lives for their art save the armed forces and, in Sri Lanka, journalism. In the course of the past few years, the independent media have increasingly come under attack. Electronic and print-media institutions have been burnt, bombed, sealed and coerced. Countless journalists have been harassed, threatened and killed."



As a journalist who sought to report the truth, Tissainayagam became a marked man. His path to jail began in July and November of 2006 when his two editorials questioning the government's war efforts were published. In the first article, he wrote: "Providing security to Tamils now will define northeastern politics of the future ... it is fairly obvious that the government is not going to offer them any protection. In fact, it is the state security forces that are the main perpetrator of the killings." In the second article, Tissainayagam wrote: "With no military options, the government buys time by offering watered-down devolution ... Such offensives against the civilians are accompanied by attempts to starve the population by refusing them food as well as medicines and fuel, with the hope of driving out the people of Vaharai and depopulating it. As this story is being written, Vaharai is being subject to intense shelling and aerial bombardment."

His words would land him in jail in early 2008, where he still remains. The charges against him accused him of creating communal disharmony and accepting Rs. 150,000 (US$ 1,500) from an alleged member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Reporters Without Borders, which undertook its own investigation, later established the money came from a German aid project.

In 2009, President Barack Obama brought

worldwide attention to Tissainayagam's case when he declared on World Press Freedom Day: "In every corner of the globe there are



journalists in jail or being harassed. Emblematic examples of this distressing reality are figures like J. S. Tissainayagam in Sri Lanka or Shi Tao and Hu Jia in China." But the President's remarks could do little to deter the determination of the country's leadership to punish and make an example of Tissainayagam for going beyond state-sanctioned information. On August 31, Tissainayagam was sentenced to 20 years in prison. The verdict was denounced by press advocates around the world, including Reporters Without Borders. The organization noted: "the imposition of this extremely severe sentence on Tissainayagam suggests that some Sri Lanka judges confuse justice with revenge." Soon afterwards, numerous organizations around the world rallied to Tissainayagam's case, including the Committee to Protect Journalists which honored Tissainayagam with a 2009 International Press Freedom Award. Tissainayagam was also recognized as the first winner of the Peter Mackler Mackler Award for Courageous and Ethical Journalism by the Global Media Forum and the US branch of Reporters Without Borders. But to this day, the Sri Lankan government continue to disregard international pressure by keeping Tissai nayagam in jail.

Sadly, Tissainayagam's case is just one of the many examples of the threats and pressure faced by the Sri Lankan press. One year ago, Sunday Leader editor Wickrematunge was shot by unidentified gunmen on his way to his Colombo office. He would die a few hours later from his wounds. To this day, his murder remains unsolved. Anticipating his death, Wickrematunge had written an editorial fingering his eventual killers: "When finally I am killed, it will be the government that kills me."



The cases of Tissainayagam and Wickre matunge are among the more high profile cases of press persecution to come out of Sri Lanka in recent years. But there are many more. Since 2006, more than 14 journalists and media workers have been killed on the job. These type of attacks on those who are supposed to report the truth are part of the reasons that Reporters Without Borders ranked Sri Lanka 162nd out of 175 countries in the world in 2009 for press freedom. A free press is critical to nurturing a healthy and functioning democracy. Until Sri Lanka's leadership stops attacking those who seek to tell the truth, Sri Lanka cannot claim to be anything close to a democracy.

By Professor R. Cheran

The Second Sunrise

On that day,
there was no wind;
no rising tide,
even the waves had died.
Sea.

Walking across,
feet sinking in the sand,
again a sunrise.
This sunrise in the South.

What happened?
My town was burned;
my people became
faceless;
in my land, my air,
in everything,
the stamps of outsiders

Hands clapsed behind you,
who do you wait for?
On the clouds
fire
has written its tale;
who waits even now?

The Story of A Severed Leg

From the ashen streets,
arise and march
I am writing the story of a severed leg.

A road that begins in the mountains
runs through this barren land
to the city,
now lies distraught.

The story of war mixed with blood
in scattered fragments
like restless ghosts,
follow the road in grief.

The tears of wounded trees,
settle on the marks
left by vehicles
of well-meaning NGOs.

The dust covers the teras,
indifferent, like an undertaker
covering the body
of an unclaimed corpse.

Dismembered by war,
the road survives;
I saw;
where the road forks
a half-broken milestone;
on it sat
a skull.

On this barren road
consumed with thirst
turning towards the forest,
I saw,

beneath the Palai tree
a severed leg.

A thousand stories
rose to fill the forest
from that leg
lying without protest.

These stories displaced
the wonderous tales and visions
the forest acquired at birth,
long before memory's time.

The displaced stories and beliefs
in diasporic lands
in the temples of Tamils,
in their myriad lives,
Now hang,
embodiments of sin.

Beneath those,
compassion in darkened rooms,
the irresponsibility of distance,
I see
in these walking corpses.

I saw
in the forest engulfing
pain, courage, sorrow, oppression,
despair—the severed leg.

I saw,
on the tomb of my dreams,
scattering its stories
in silence,
the severed leg.

"Give Someone The Gift Of Life"

By Gajanan Kuganesan

In the second year of the Tamil Canadian Partner for Life campaign, the CTC was once again able to break barriers and deliver as the top community blood donation group across Central Ontario and Canada. With the assistance of the Canadian Blood Services, multiple organizational partners and the community, we were able to surpass last year's record breaking numbers and collect over 500



units of blood for the CBS. This translated to saving more than 1,500 lives across our local communities in Central Ontario and Canada.

Of course, none of these achievements could have been possible without the help of several community organizations and numerous university student associations. This year, the youth of the community really made a difference through multiple clinics held at their campuses and through community and sports leagues across the city.

2009 also marked the launch of the OneMatch program for bone marrow and stem cell donations within the Tamil community. This year, more than 58 new registrants, surpassing our target of 50, supported our OneMatch program and assisted in the need to find compatible donors for stem cell and bone marrow transplants. In Canada, there is a great demand currently for South Asian donors. With the rapid advancements of medical technology, many processes have become streamlined and simplified from the collection of mouth swabs and cheek cells to register donors, to less intrusive medical processes for transplant procedures. This year's OneMatch campaign focused on educating community members and expanding the global database of potential donors.

So far, our upcoming campaigns for 2010 are running strong. We want to expand our Partner for Life campaign across the country and build a greater profile for the OneMatch program within our community. In the coming days and months, we strongly encourage you to spread the word and donate blood as every single



donor makes a difference. One donation helps save three lives across Ontario.

To book an appointment, please call the Canadian Blood Services at 1-888-2-DONATE. Otherwise, contact your local Canadian Tamil Congress office for more information regarding the Tamil Canadian Partner for Life campaign.

As always, use our group ID –'Tamil Canadians – CANA009345"— when donating.

Behind the Talk of War Crimes

By Theepan Vigneswaran

"Establishing the facts is crucial to set the record straight regarding the conduct of all parties in the conflict. Victims and survivors have a right to justice and remedies."
– Navi Pillay, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights

In May 2009, the Times of London reported that more than 20,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the final stages of Sri Lanka's conflict, mostly due to government shelling. Based on serial photographs, official documents, witness accounts and expert testimony, the paper determined the figure was three times the official figure that had been bandied around at the end of April. It was also 20,000 more than what the Sri Lankan government had repeatedly stated with its officials going as far as to claim no civilian had been killed.

This Times of London investigation was among one of the key reports to blatantly contradict the Sri Lankan government's propaganda and shed light into how many civilians were killed in a war zone closed to media, aid workers and independent human rights observers.

Today, several months after the war's end, the international will and ability to ensure justice for the tens of thousands of victims killed during the last phase of the conflict remains weak. The few calls for accountability in the form of a war crimes probe came at an United Nations Human Rights Council meeting in May but were shut down thanks to democracy-averse countries like China, Russia and Cuba. The latter backed a Sri Lankan-proposed resolution stating the conflict was a "domestic matter that doesn't warrant outside interference." Multiple calls for a war crimes inquiry, from NGOs like the Human Rights Watch and from prominent figures like United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, have gone ignored.

In the meantime, more information keeps filtering out, adding to the existing evidence that war crimes were committed during the last phase of the conflict.



The repeated attacks on hospitals were among the more egregious examples of war crimes committed during the last phase of the war. Human Rights Watch, one of the world's leading human rights organizations, was among the most vocal in stating that the Sri Lankan government's repeated shelling of hospitals in the northern Vanni region amounted to war crimes. With information from patients, medical staff, aid workers and other witnesses, Human Rights Watch noted at least 30 attacks on clearly-marked permanent and makeshift hospitals took place in the combat area from December 2008 to May 2009. The shelling of the hospitals took place despite the fact that hospitals, whether permanent or temporary, are specially protected under international humanitarian law. As Human Rights Watch notes: "Under the Geneva Conventions, hospitals remain protected unless they are used

to commit hostile acts that are outside their humanitarian function. Even then, they are only subject to attack after a warning has been given setting a reasonable time limit, and after such warning has gone unheeded."

Beyond the calls from independent NGOs for a war crimes investigation, foreign governments have also spoken on the subject. In October, the U.S. State Department touched on reported war crimes committed during the final phase of the war with a report on Sri Lanka. The State Department detailed a comprehensive list of reported abuses that took place, including government shelling in the No Fire Zone, the abduction and murders of Tamil civilians and the forceful reduction of medical and food supplies to Tamil areas during the conflict.



Then in December, former Sri Lankan General Sarath Fonseka's interview with a leading Sri Lankan publication added to the mounting evidence that war crimes were committed in Sri Lanka. The interview noted that surrendering rebels and their families, carrying white flags, were executed in violation of agreements assuring their safety. But these reports so far have led to little action.

Then there is the case of the video. In August 2009, Britain's Channel 4 released a video showing the summary execution of Tamils. The footage featured Tamils, who have been stripped naked and blindfolded, being killed. Channel 4 News and BBC received the footage from Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka (JDS), a group that includes both Sinhalese and Tamils. The JDS is a group of journalists, writers, artists and human rights defenders who fled persecution in Sri Lanka.

Upon the release of the video, Sri Lanka spent much time attempting to sell the idea that the video was fake. This January, its propaganda was roundly contradicted by Philip Alston, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions. He conclusively weighed in on Britain's Channel 4 video by stating: "The conclusion clearly is that the video is authentic." He also called for an independent probe into war crimes committed during the war.

Mr. Alston reached his conclusion after commissioning three experts in forensic pathology, forensic video analysis, and firearm evidence to examine the video.

The experts had found no evidence of image manipulation, no additional video layers and found body reaction, movement, and blood evidence were entirely consistent with what would be expected in such shootings. The video proved, what many Tamil Canadians knew, that war crimes did happen and the Sri Lankan government lied to evade responsibility.

Today, Mr. Alston's calls for an independent war crimes inquiry offer one of the few glimmers of hope that victims of the conflict will find some sort of justice. But even then, any resolution seems far off as anti-democratic countries dominate the Human Rights Council and the Sri Lanka government continues to evade the possibility of any independent investigation.

SickKids
FOUNDATION

January 2010

On behalf of SickKids Foundation, I would like to thank the Canadian Tamil Congress for hosting the **2009 Tamil Canadian Walk for SickKids**. We are grateful to all of the organizers and volunteers who came together to make this event possible.

SickKids has been lead by leaders in child health research and care for over 130 years. Their efforts have been matched by philanthropic champions, like you, every step of the way. To ensure that the legacy of excellence for which SickKids is known carries on, we need our community to remain an integral partner.

SickKids is steadfastly committed to combining our specialized knowledge, clinical skills, and ongoing research to provide appropriate treatment for young patients who depend on getting healthier, faster, so that they can get back to the business of being kids. Your support of SickKids is crucial; in fact, it will go a long way to advancing the health and well-being of countless children – both in Canada and around the world.

SickKids Foundation feels very fortunate to be the beneficiary of this event, and we are proud to stand alongside each one of you in the fight against childhood disease. Thank you for your generous support, and, most importantly, thank you for Believing in SickKids.

Sincerely,

Heather Broll

Heather Broll
VP, Community Involvement
SickKids Foundation

525 University Avenue
14th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2L
Phone 416 813 6166
Fax 416 813 5024
Toll Free 800 661 1
www.sickkidsfoundation.com

CHARITABLE BUSINE
10808 4419 RR0001

Tamil Canadians Rally For SickKids

By Priya Jeganathan and Shanthy Logeswaran

This year marked the first annual fundraising campaign by the Canadian Tamil Congress for a charitable organization that provides much needed care and resources for Canadians. With the help of our community, we raised funds and awareness this year for the Hospital for Sick Children.



SickKids was chosen because it provides invaluable services to the Canadian community, with regards to life saving research (Canada's most research intensive hospital) and crucial healthcare for our children. It excels by integrating learning and research towards personal care and helps nearly 100,000 patients every year, including several Tamil Canadian children. A large part of funding for this foundation is provided by donations from individuals, communities and organizations.



A large part of our strategy to raise money for SickKids was to hold the first annual Tamil Canadian Walk For SickKids. The event drew more than 1,000 walkers, participants, and volunteers at Thomson Memorial Park. The Walk kicked off with the Canadian national anthem and featured speeches by Don Valley West MP Rob Oliphant and Ajax Councillor Renrick Ashby.

Participants walked from Thomson Memorial Park to Albert Campbell Square. At the square, walkers enjoyed musical performances by local artists within the community, carnival games, arts & crafts, a photo booth and face painting courtesy of our amazingly generous and committed volunteers. The afternoon's itinerary wrapped up with speeches by Ontario Provincial Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Brad Duguid and SickKids scientist Nades Palaniar.



Overall, we are thrilled with the success of our initiative this year, which has resulted in the Tamil Canadian community donating $40,000 for the SickKids hospital. Overall, this event was a very successful one on all accounts and we look forward to our next Tamil Canadian Walk this year!

Faces of CTC

Gallery











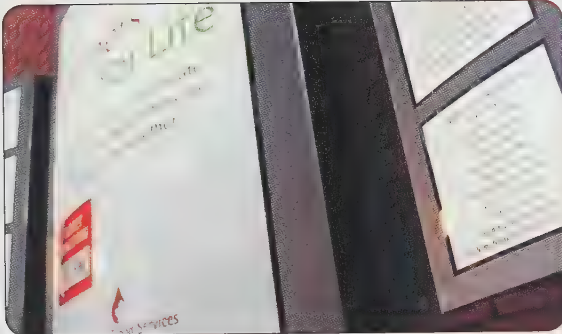






Faces of CTC

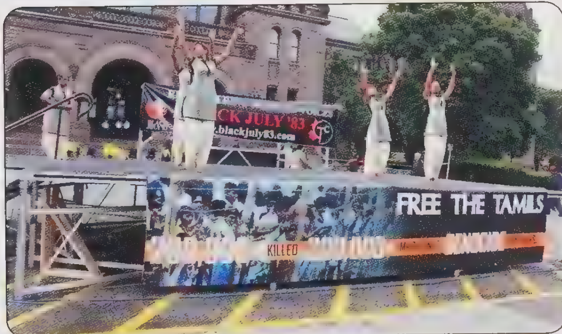
Gallery

















The Need For A Boycott

By Jeyagobi Jeyaratnam

Despite the changing circumstances in Sri Lanka, the underlying grievances and suffering of the Tamil minority persists. In April 2009, the "No to Sri Lanka" campaign was launched to draw attention to the economic contribution that foreign trade of Sri Lankan goods and services make in sustaining inequality and persecution against Tamil people on the island of Sri Lanka.

The fundamental problems of inequality,



discrimination and persecution that sparked the 26-year civil war still exist to this day. These include:

(a) Denying to the Tamils equality of opportunity in the spheres of employment, education, land alienation and economic life in general,

(b) Denying Tamils opportunities of developing their language and culture in Sri Lanka, thereby working towards deteriorating the existence of the Tamil culture,

(c) The maintenance of Sinhala as the principle operating language of the country, thereby placing the stamp of inferiority on the Tamils and the Tamil language,

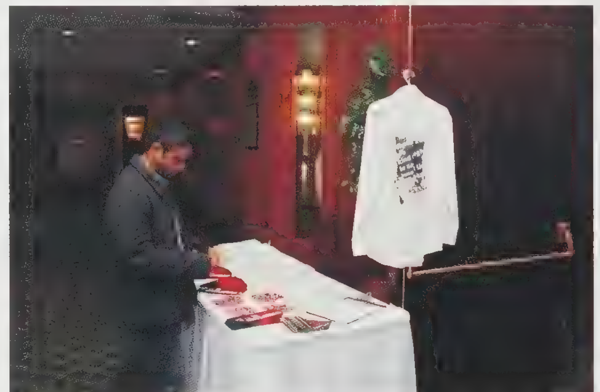
(d) Making serious inroads into traditional Tamil lands by a system of planned and state-aided Sinhalese colonization, calculated to make the Tamils a minority in these areas,

(e) Repeatedly permitting and unleashing communal violence and intimidation against the Tamil speaking people,

(h) Torturing and imprisoning Tamil youths without trial for long periods on the flimsiest grounds,

In 2009, life for Tamils in Sri Lanka significantly worsened. According to the Times of London, more than 20,000 civilians were killed, mainly due to government shelling. Another 300,000 were held in internment camps, behind barbed wire, denied freedom of movement and adequate access to water, proper sanitation and food. They were held for several months in violation of international law. While some have been released, many continue to be denied their freedom of movement even today.

In light of all these growing grievances, the



campaign has called for pressure on the country's economic engine by asking local, international, and multinational industries to

Contd. pg 65

temporarily place sanctions on Sri Lankan exports to ensure justice and equality for all on the island of Sri Lanka.



Part of this movement is taking root in Canada, where the largest Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora is increasingly refraining from purchasing products that contribute to Sri Lanka's Gross Domestic Product. According to statistics compiled by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, Canadian business establishments import approximately $119.5 million worth of merchandise from Sri Lanka. The majority of this merchandise falls under the classification of woven clothing, knitted apparel, rubber, and tea.



That's why the campaign has been involved in organizing regular demonstrations in front on local retailers such as the GAP and Victoria Secret to encourage others to boycott Sri Lankan-made products. With the launch of the www.notosrilanka.com, the campaign provided the boycott movement with a resource to highlight the evolving crisis, and linking concerned citizen from around the world on the issue.

These efforts have taken on a global scale, with similar boycott movements in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, and the Netherlands. So far, the No to Sri Lanka campaign has also developed an ever growing list of supporters including local unions, non-governmental organizations, retailers and manufacturers. Each of these groups have agreed to endorse the campaign, refuse to import or purchase Sri Lankan made goods, and call on their political allies to take a stand on the side of compassion, global consciousness, and human rights.



In 2010, check the label and hold the government of Sri Lanka responsible for its war without witness, and press for improved conditions for the hundreds of thousands of Tamils who continue to suffer on the Island of Sri Lanka.

Simply check the label and "Boycott Sri Lanka."

Medical Neutrality Under Fire

By Dr. Meera Selvakone

"These are people who performed absolutely heroically in the last few weeks and months, and deserve every praise and care." - *John Holmes, United Nations Humanitarian Affairs Chief*



Endorsed by Amnesty International Canada and Physicians for Human Rights, the Save the Doctors Campaign is a global effort to ensure justice for doctors who worked tirelessly to save thousands of patients during the final stages of the war in Sri Lanka.

Between February and May 2009, over 300,000 civilians were trapped between battle lines. Hospitals were over-run, with seriously injured civilians flooding into medical facilities. There were shortages of food, medicine, clean water and supplies. Compounding the situation further was that hospitals faced artillery attacks. Many medical staff fled for their own safety.

Three government-employed doctors chose to stay behind. The physicians treated acute trauma and burn victims, performed surgical amputations, and provided much needed first aid. During artillery attacks, they would go into bunkers and come out to treat patients during the lulls. Moreover, at a time when journalists were barred from the conflict zone, the physicians communicated with the outside world about the casualties they saw.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Dr. Thangamuthu Sathiya moorthy, Dr. Veerakaththi Shanmugarajah and Dr. Thurairajah Varatharajah coordinated with the ICRC to evacuate nearly 14,000 patients and their caregivers from the war zone between mid-February and May 9.

During the final hours of the war on May 15, the physicians fled alongside 5,000 civilians to Omanthai crossing point. Dr. Varatharajah suffered a shrapnel injury. All three physicians were taken into the custody of the Sri Lankan army and detained without charge.



The stories of Dr. Sathiyamoorthy, Dr. Shanmugarajah and Dr. Varatharajah quickly made headlines around the world. Their

GreenWill Security Services

What Makes GreenWill Security the best…

1. We can match and beat anybody's price.
2. Our guards are the most customer service focused.
3. Electronic Incident and Deficiency Reports make work easy for Property Managers & Boards.
4. Electronic patrol monitoring – FREE for the corporation.
5. Continuous guards training ensure sharp guards.
6. Tools for reporting make it easy for guards to do a great job.
7. Your contract managed by the Owners – issues resolved fast.
8. And……..our uniform is the most beautiful.





GreenWill Security Values

- Well Trained Guards
- Closing all security loopholes
- Serving Condominium Communities
- Facilitating the condominium lifestyle

Contact Us
President – 647-216-1857
Vice President – 647-834 – 4507
farai@greenwillsecurity.com
www.greenwillsecurity.com

Securing Properties & Facilitating the Lifestyle of Condominium Living!

detention for performing their duty of caring for patients was seen as a direct violation of the neutrality of medicine. Indeed, calls for their release immediately began pouring out from international medical, human rights and press organizations.



Amid this growing international pressure, on August 24, 2009, Dr. Sathiyamoorthy, Dr. Shanmugarajah and Dr. Varatharajah were conditionally released on bail along with their colleague Dr. Ilancheliyan Pallavan. A fifth physician, Dr. Sivapalan, remains in detention. The physicians currently face prosecution by Sri Lankan authorities for allegedly providing "false information" to the international community on civilian deaths. Their movement and communication is restricted. As witnesses to the war, the doctors remain in danger as they face possibilities of harm and disappearance.

Save the Doctors campaign has sent an appeal to Sri Lankan government officials calling for the unconditional release and protection of the physicians. The appeal has been signed by a number of prominent organizations around the world including: Amnesty International Canada, Physicians for Human Rights, Canadian Medical Association, Physicians for Global Survival, Doctors for Human Rights (UK), Doctors Against Racism and Anti-Semitism, Canadian Association for Physicians of Indian Heritage, Asian Centre for Human Rights, Danish Medical Association, Finnish Medical Association, Icelandic Medical Association, Norwegian Medical Association, Swedish Medical Association and many more.

Together with Amnesty International Canada, Save The Doctors Campaign co-sponsored the panel discussion "Human Rights, Politics and the Hippocratic Oath: Exploring Physicians' Roles in Conflict Situations" at the Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto, on November 2, 2009. The panel featured renowned speakers, Dr. James Orbinski, Professor Sharryn Aiken and Professor Craig Scott. The well-attended discussion focused on medical neutrality, ethical duty to patients during war, and violations of international law and press freedom as they pertain to the doctors' cases.



Save The Doctors Campaign aims to continue raising public awareness on this issue and work towards justice for these and other physicians facing wrongful persecution around the world. For further information, please visit the campaign website www.savethedoctors.com.

வாகன விபத்தில் காயமடைந்துவிட்டீர்களா?

அனுபவசாலிகளின் ஆலோசனை பெற்றபின் உங்கள் முடிவை எடுங்கள்

FIREMAN WOLFE LLP

PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

CERTIFIED AS A SPECIALIST IN CIVIL LITIGATION

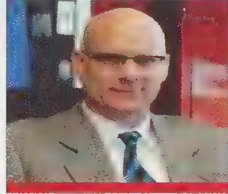
SPECIALIZING IN SERIOUS PERSONAL TRAUMATIC INJURIES AS RESULT OF A

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

FRACTURES • SPINAL CORD INJURY • BRAIN OR HEAD INJURY
SCARRING OR DISFIGUREMENT • INTERNAL INJURIES OR DEATH



Jack J. Fireman Q.C. LLM.
Jack J. Fireman Q.C. has been voted to the "Most Frequently Recommended Lawyer" catergory in L'Expert since 1997 as voted by the his peers from Ontario



William C. Wolfe B.A. LLB

Prior to 2000, Mr. Fireman and Mr. Wolfe defended insurance companies before changing their practices to representing injured people only.

Over 50 Years Combined Experience

Even if you are:
- unemployed
- cyclist
- passenger
- pedestrian
- traveling in public transit
- student
- housewife

உங்களுக்குத் தெரியுமா?

விபத்து உங்கள் தவறில்லாவிடின் உங்களால் வலி, வருத்தம், வாழ்வில் இழந்த மகிழ்ச்சி ஆகியவற்றுக்காக பணமாக **$310,000.00** வரையும், சம்பள இழப்பீடுகள், அத்துடன் **$172,000.00** வரை இழப்பாகவும் மற்றும்பலவகையான இழப்புக்களுக்கு நஷ்டஈடுகள் பெறமுடியும்.

IF YOU HAVE OPTIONAL INSURANCE, YOU CAN CLAIM UP TO
$1,000.00 IRB'S PER WEEK
வரை
இழப்பதற்கு அனுமதிக்காதீர்கள்

உங்களுக்குத் தெரியுமா?

விபத்து உங்கள் தவறாகயிருப்பின் உங்களால் **$172,000.00** வரையும் வருமான இழப்பீடாக வாரத்திற்கு $400.00 வரையும் இன்னும் பலவகை இழப்பீடுகளையும் பெறமுடியும்.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS TO THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

If the impairment catastrophic your claim can be:
- Medical and Rehabilitation expenses up to **$1,000,000.00**
- Personal care expanses up to **$1,000,000.00**

தீபன்

இலவச ஆலோசனைகளுக்கு: 24 Hours Direct Line **(416) 505-9804**
(416) 624-4751





அனுபவம் இல்லாதவர்களின் ஆலோசனையின் கீழ் விழுந்திடாதீர்கள்

"One of the best personal injury law firm in Ontario"

Ocean Lady: Fleeing From Danger

By Vathany Uthayam

Day and night, we, at Canadian Tamil Congress, have worked to help many of the 76 people who risked their lives to flee to Canada via the Ocean Lady. In their voices and that of their families, we have heard the pain and desperation of their suffering.

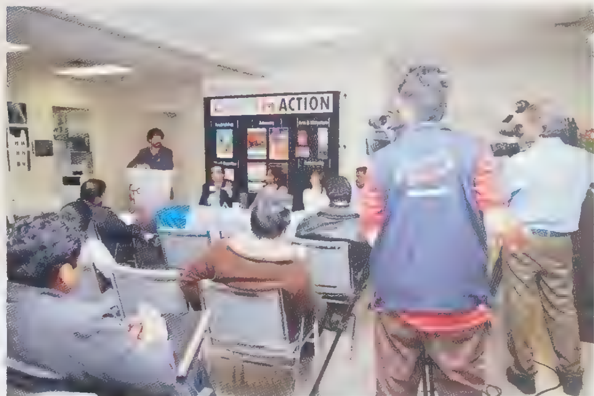


Many of them arrived in Canada in October 2009 after much difficulty. Some had families, but many of them came here alone and didn't know or have anyone in Canada. They came during one of the darkest years for the our community where often times we felt helpless in the face of the arbitrary killing of tens of thousands of Tamils and the internment of 250,000 more. We stood on the streets of the country, in the cold and the rain, helpless and unheard. But these Tamil refugees who have arrived on our shores gave us a chance to actually save some Tamils, to make a difference.

Therefore, the question for us was never if we should get involved, it was how could we not? As the organization representing Tamil Canadians in Canada, we felt we had to do our job to help save the Tamils who fled persecution and risked death to come to our shores.

As such, our efforts kicked into effect the day national and local media began reporting that such a boat had arrived. The news mobilized us to work day and night to do everything in our power to assist the newcomers. This includes connecting families, newcomers and lawyers, holding information sessions on the legal and refugee process and providing emotional support for many of the newcomers.

As a Diaspora, we watched with pain as thousands died and those in the international community failed to hear our pleas. With the impending release of many of the newcomers, we feel we have done our job as a community organization to at least help save those fleeing persecution.



Migrants on Board the Merak Boat

Currently, our work to help the community has spurred the many Canadian relatives of those aboard the refugee boat at Merak, Indonesia to contact us. Of the 253 migrants on board the boat, close to 80 have Canadian relatives. These Canadian families continue to be deeply concerned about the fate of their loved ones, who have been languishing on the boat with no UNHCR access for months.


With best compliments from

Message from CanTYD

CANADIAN TAMIL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



Since 1999, the Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre (also known as CanTYD) has been serving youth and aiding them in addressing some of the fundamental challenges confronted by the Tamil community. Much of CanTYD's work involves outreach, mentorship, working one-on-one, and advocating for youth. Currently, the Tamil community is facing multiple challenges that need to be addressed. Issues such as youth violence and drug abuse are of growing concern among youth in the Tamil community.

The political, economical, and social struggles faced by the Canadian Tamil community still have yet to be resolved. As a community, it is crucial that we invest in ourselves, in our future, and in Canada, beginning with our young people. CanTYD aims to work collaboratively with the community and other organizations to create much-needed dialogue in addressing these emerging concerns amongst Tamil Canadian youth.

Just as the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) is recognizing and supporting CanTYD today, we encourage other community members, businesses and organizations to learn more about CanTYD and invest in our future. Only with our collective effort can we move forward. In supporting CanTYD, you are supporting the youth in your community. CanTYD's success is measured by the positive impact it continues to have on our families and on our youth. It is vital that we work together to continue delivering such results.

Let's continue moving forward together, let's continue to inspire and dream together.



Breaking the Barriers,
Building the Future

705 Progress Avenue, Unit 40
Scarborough, Ontario
M1H 2X1
Telephone: (416) 431-4100
Fax: (416) 431-4150
info@cantyd.org





762 Markham Road, Scarborough
(416) 438-4400



Trust the Midas touch.™

LUBE, OIL & FILTER CHANGE $19*

Service includes:

- Change up to 5 litres of ...
- Install new oil filter

OFFER AVAILABLE ONLY AT
762 Markham Road, Scarborough, ON **(416) 438-4400.**



BUY 3 TIRES & GET 1 FREE*

... of quality **Bridgestone** and **Firestone** ...

OFFER AVAILABLE ONLY AT
762 Markham Road, Scarborough, ON **(416) 438-4400.**

... tire installation package, which include ...



LIFETIME BRAKE PADS OR SHOES $59

Installation Extra

OFFER AVAILABLE ONLY AT
762 Markham Road, Scarborough ON **(416) 438-4400.**



SUMMER MAINTENANCE PACKAGE $39

Service includes:

- Lube, oil (5 or 1 ... and filter*

OFFER AVAILABLE ONLY AT
762 Markham Road, Scarborough, ON **(416) 438-4400.**



Ambika Jewellers

White Gold

Diamond

Genuine Stones



Myriam Jewellers
3024 Hurontario St. Unit 1
Mississauga, ON L5B 3X7
Tel: 905-273-7300
Fax: 905-273-7309
Toll Free: 1-866-575-7342

Ambika Jewellers
2376 Eglinton Ave. East
Scarborough, ON
Tel: 416 751 1364

99, Sirangoon Road Singapore
Tel: 65- 62940700, 65-81331921

25, Agnes St. Mississauga
Tel: 905 270 6921

3852 Finch Ave East, G-05, Scarborough
Te: 415 335 1553

The Deterioration of the Rule of Law in Sri Lanka

By Harini Sivalingam

Over the years, we have seen the rule of law in Sri Lanka crumble. It is said that the strength of the rule of law in a country is indicative of the strength of its democracy. With the presidential elections just days away, we have seen a further erosion of both the rule of law and its fundamental democratic tenants such as freedom of the press, the ability to voice political dissent and the ability of citizens to partake in free and fair elections. Now more than ever, it is critical to examine the state of the rule of law in Sri Lanka. Although there are many examples of the failings of the rule of law in Sri Lanka, there are three key areas that deserve international scrutiny: (1) Lack of Institutional independence in the legal system; (2) Threats to judges and lawyers and (3) Impunity.



Lack of Institutional Independence in the Legal System

In October 2001, the Sri Lankan parliament passed the 17th Amendment to the constitution establishing a Constitutional Council (CC), a 10-member body with the power to make recommendations and approve appointments to the independent commissions, such as the Judicial Services Commission, the National Police Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Election Commission and the Public Service Commission. The CC was also intended to approve the appointment of persons to senior positions in the public service, such as the Attorney-General, the Inspector General of Police, the Chief Justice and other judges of the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. Once the CC approves or makes these nominations, the President is authorized to make the appointment. As of 2005, the 17th Amendment has not been implemented as the President has failed to appoint commissioners to the body after the initial commissioners' terms expired. The President has reverted to making direct appointments without any external scrutiny, thus politicizing the appointment process to key public institutions. The International Bar Association Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), in its report 'Justice in Retreat': A report on the independence of the legal profession and the rule of law in Sri Lanka, states that "the non-implementation of the 17th Amendment represents one of the most critical unresolved rule of law issues in the country, and necessarily affects the independence of the judiciary."



The IBAHRI reports that it is "extremely concerned at the lack of institutional safeguards for the independence of judicial appointments, and considers that the bypassing of constitutional processes by the executive has had an adverse impact on the perceived independence of the judiciary in Sri Lanka. Bypassing the 17th Amendment has a negative impact on the perceived and actual independence of the judiciary and has consequently eroded the confidence and ability in the legal system to mete out justice. A case in point is the recent sentencing of J.S. Tissanayagam for 20 years for simply doing his job as a journalist by reporting on the conditions of war during the armed conflict.

Threats and Intimidation of Judges and Lawyers

Judges and lawyers as the guardians of equality and justice are the primary advocates for human rights in a democracy. As such, judges and lawyers often became the first targets of an



oppressive regime. In Sri Lanka, judges and lawyers who speak out against attacks on fundamental human rights are at grave risk of intimidation and harassment. Sri Lankan judges involved in cases concerning opposition political parties were, and are, often targeted with unfair disciplinary measures, such as removal from office, transfer to distant courts, and/or demotion.

Members of the legal profession in Sri Lanka have been harassed, intimidated, threatened, attacked and even killed for simply fulfilling their professional obligations and duties. There is a pattern of intimidation of lawyers filing fundamental rights applications, representing accused terrorism suspects, and acting in bribery and anti-corruption cases, that has been developing in recent years.

The IBAHRI reports that "making complaints against the police and/or other authorities has become an increasingly dangerous activity over the past 12 months. In particular, there are widespread accounts of intimidating behaviour of police officers towards lawyers at police stations. The IBAHRI reports states that cases of lawyers being harassed by police officers, "including verbal and physical abuse as well as other forms of intimidation such as plain-clothes policemen waiting outside lawyers' offices in white vans with no registration plates. In addition, there are concerns regarding reports that police officers are frequently present during interviews with clients and in some cases taking notes on the conversation.

Impunity and the Failure of Presidential Commissions of Inquiry

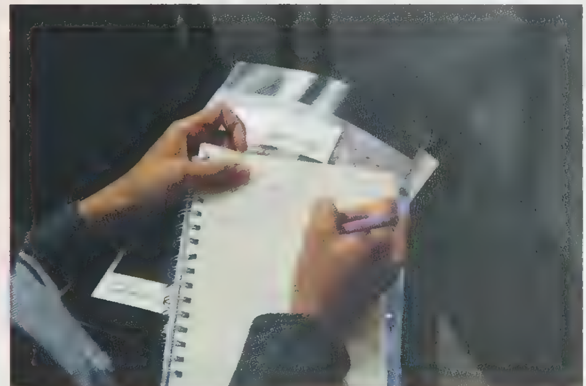
Impunity has long been the rule in countries where violations of international humanitarian law are concerned. The failure of the formal justice system in Sri Lanka to check grave violations of human rights has been a focus of domestic and international pressure on the Sri Lankan government for decades. That pressure has sometimes led the government to appoint ad hoc commissions of inquiry to look into particularly high profile cases. These

Commissions of Inquiry have proved equally ineffective in combating impunity. The latest of these attempts is a Presidential Commission of Inquiry (COI) into 16 cases of "serious violations of human rights". Amnesty International's report, 'Twenty Years of Make-Believe: Sri Lanka's Commissions of Inquiry', documents the



failure of the Sri Lankan government to investigate and prosecute grave human rights violations and provide accountability for the atrocities. Emphasizing the growing problem of impunity in Sri Lanka, the report states that COIs lack the necessary autonomy, independence and authority to prosecute the perpetrators of human rights violations in Sri Lanka over the past 20 years. The report concludes that "In Sri Lanka, Commissions of Inquiry have not performed successfully, and the formal justice system is in tatters. Serious human rights violations (including torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, and violations of the right to life) continue to be committed, and perpetrators continue to be protected from prosecution by a government that is more concerned with pleasing its narrow political constituency than in protecting the citizens' human rights and ensuring equal access to justice. The failure of the COI as a justice strategy has been demonstrated most clearly by the findings of the International Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP), a group of 11 international experts formed in February 2007 to observe the work of a Presidential Commission of Inquiry. IIGEP concluded that the government of Sri Lanka was not willing to "investigate cases with vigour, where the conduct of its own forces has been called into question." It also noted the state's unwillingness to uncover "the systemic failures and obstructions to justice that rendered the original investigations ineffective." In April 2008, the IIGEP, after only 13 months, was forced to terminate its mission prematurely due to lack of cooperation from the Sri Lankan government.

Conclusion:



The crumbling rule of law in Sri Lanka has causes for serious concern for the international community. These failures call into question the ability of the Sri Lankan government to adequately investigate the allegations of gross human rights abuses and violations of humanitarian law that were committed during the final phase of the armed conflict. Therefore, it is critical that the international community swiftly appoint an independent international investigation into the atrocities committed during the armed conflict.

Scholars Converge For Fifth Annual Tamil Studies Conference

The Centre for South Asian Studies at the University of Toronto and the University of Windsor jointly host "Constructing Tamil Worlds: Circulation, Marginality and Plurality," the fifth annual Tamil Studies Conference from May 13-15, 2010. This conference will bring together Tamil Studies scholars, artists, writers and activists from North America, Central America, Europe, South Asia, and Australasia.



Over 70 presenters from disciplines and fields ranging from Anthropology, Archaeology, Art History, Dance, Diaspora Studies, English, History, Journalism, Labour Rights, Literature, Music, Religion, Sociology, Theatre Studies, Visual Arts and Women's Studies will present papers.

The annual conferences have the following goals:

• To stimulate the development of Toronto as an important centre for Tamil Studies in North America.

• To strengthen the engagement of the Toronto Tamil community with both the University of Toronto and the academy of Tamil Studies scholars in North America.

• To provide North American scholars with a regular opportunity to present their work before their academic colleagues and informed members of the Tamil community.

• To introduce students in Toronto to the diverse disciplines of Tamil Studies and the scholars pursuing them in North America.

• To enable scholars working on Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka to engage with each other's work and to develop a more comparative approach to the study of these Tamil regions.

• To make the Tamil Diaspora an important subject of academic study and engagement.
To publish selected conference papers.

2010 Conference:

"Constructing Tamil Worlds: Circulation, Marginality and Plurality"

Constant movement, across time and space, has played an important role in both establishing and destabilizing notions of culture and identity. The papers will focus on the circulation of people, ideas, and goods, as a way of understanding the past and the present. The papers will also examine, from different disciplinary perspectives, the Tamil regions, worlds, world views and practices as a product of circulation rather than permanence.

For more information, please visit
http://tamilstudiesconference.ca/contact/

DR. ILLANGO & ASSOCIATES

ORTHODONTICS, ORAL SURGERY, IMPLANT

Dental Office



SCARBOROUGH

3852 Finch Ave. East,
Suite 204 & 303
Scarborough, ON.
Tel: 416 292 7004

MISSISSAUGA

3025 Hurontario St.,
Unit 102
Mississauga, ON
Tel: 905 270 7844

Commercial Residential & Investments.....

To Buy or Sell
I Save your money !!!

UP TO $ 350,000
SMALL BUSINESS LOAN CAN
BE ARRANGED



RED CARPET®
Royal Realty Ltd., Brokerage
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Chandran Sornalingam
Real Estate Broker

Cell: **416-722-1654**
Bus: 416-284-5555 (24Hrs.Pager)
Email: Chandranshan@hotmail.com

880 Ellesmere Rd Suite 204, Toronto M1P2W6



Call for Free Market Evaluation!!!

Dance Performances

Students of Nirothini Pararajasingam

Nirothini Pararajasingam, a performer, teacher and choreographer, had her initial training in Bharathanatyam from the well known Guru Balasundary Kanagasabai and later from Guru Vijayambihai Indrakumar. She concluded her studies under Guru Adyar K. Laksman in Tamil Nadu, India. She also obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in India. She started her teaching career in Sri Lanka and has been teaching for 20 years in Toronto.

In 1990, Mrs. Pararajasingam started Niruthya Kalanjali, an institute of fine arts in Toronto. This institute is dedicated towards maintaining Indian culture and religion through the art of classical dance. Mrs. Pararajasingam teaches arts, dance and culture at the institute. Her dance troupe has put on many performances to raise funds for various organisations including the Canadian Cancer Society and the Hospital for Sick Children.

CTC Performing Arts Team

The Canadian Tamil Congress Performing Arts Team was created to promote our Tamil culture and illustrate the humanitarian struggles of Tamils through dance, music, poetry and plays. The team is comprised of members who have had formal training in classical dance, and carnatic and light music, and have performed under various names independently in the Canadian community for the past several years.

TABLE SPONSORS

Able Accident Benefits Inc.

A & T Manpower Services

Back to Action - Rehab and Assessment Centre

Canadian Cancer Society

First Canadian Title

Innovative Detailing Services Inc.

Jaffna Hindu College

Law Offices of Meleni David

Markham Tamil Organization

Mr. Balamohan Rajaratnam

Dr. Meera Selvakone

Mr. Vince Sinnadurai & Mr. Mike Ahilan – Royal Bank of Canada

Mr. Raj Thavaratnasingham

Town of Markham

United Steel Workers – District 6

Thank you for supporting Canadian Tamil Congress
கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவைக்கான உங்கள் ஆதரவுக்கு நன்றி

“There is nothing more glorious than to persist,
in the advance of the Community.”

Kural: 1021

